



Title I Waivers for School Improvement Grants January 2010

NDE is applying for waivers from the U. S. Department of Education to allow any local educational agency (LEA) in the State that receives a School Improvement Grant to use those funds in accordance with the final requirements for School Improvement Grants and the LEA's application for a grant. The application process requires public notice and an opportunity for members of the public to comment. Comments may be made on one or all three proposed waivers. A summary of the waivers that NDE will be requesting are listed below. The USDE Guidance on School Improvement Grants and the ARRA School Improvement Grant Application can be found at the following link:

http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ARRA/School_Improvement_Grants.html

Comments are encouraged and should be submitted via email to Randy.McIntyre@nebraska.gov by 5:00 p.m. (Central) on January 25, 2010.

NDE believes that the requested waiver(s) will increase the quality of instruction for students and improve the academic achievement of students in Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools by enabling an LEA to use more effectively the school improvement funds to implement one of the four school intervention models in its Tier I or Tier II schools and to carry out school improvement activities in its Tier III schools. The four school intervention models are specifically designed to raise substantially the achievement of students in the State's persistently lowest-achieving schools.

- ☐ Waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of school improvement funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2013.
- ☐ Waive section 1116(b)(12) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to allow their Tier I schools that will implement a turnaround or restart model to "start over" in the school improvement timeline.
- ☐ Waive the 40 percent poverty eligibility threshold in section 1114(a)(1) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to implement a schoolwide program in a Tier I school that does not meet the poverty threshold.

Any LEA that chooses to implement one or more of these waivers will comply with section I.A.7 of the final requirements.

An LEA will be allowed to implement the waiver(s) only if the LEA receives a School Improvement Grant and requests to implement the waiver(s) in its application. As such, the LEA may only implement the waivers(s) in Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools, as applicable, included in its application.

